

and vigor, and, at the last, we shall wholly triumph.

Mr. BRENT obtained the floor, and moved that the Convention adjourn, but gave way temporarily to

Mr. SHOWER who renewed the notice that he would to-morrow move to re-consider the vote of the Convention, rejecting the amendment offered by Mr. FIERY to the second section of the report, and

The Convention thereupon adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 25, 1851.

The Convention met at ten o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRIF-FITH.

The roll was called,
And a quorum was present.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

LICENSES.

Mr. GRASON presented a petition of sundry citizens of Queen Anne's county, praying that provision be made in the new Constitution, that the privilege to sell intoxicating liquors in small quantities, shall not be granted to any person in any part of the State or city, except the same shall first be sanctioned or approved by a majority of the voters in the county, election district, or ward where the same is to be sold.

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. GRASON,

Referred to the select committee already appointed on that subject.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the special order of the day, being the several reports of the committee on representation.

The pending question was on the amendment offered by Mr. DORSEY, as a substitute for the amendment of Mr. SCHLEY to the second section of the report submitted by Mr. MERRICK, as Chairman of the committee on representation.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, was entitled to the floor.

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, then rose and remarked, as follows:

My fate has been to occupy a position variant from the opinions of a large majority of this Convention, but while respecting the opinions of others, I cannot yield my own solemn convictions.

I have come here in no intolerant spirit to refuse my support to a fair compromise, but when I see a proposition which, however intended, has the necessary effect to fix a stigma on my constituency—when I see a proposition so odious and unjust, I cannot for one moment hesitate. Before I conclude, I will endeavor to demonstrate that a proposition

which I shall read and submit at the proper season, is based on the true principle of compromise, and commends itself to considerations of general expediency as well as justice.

The gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers,) has alluded to what he terms our "*pathetic appeals* in behalf of the rights and equality of man." I can only say, that I make no appeals to the sympathy of gentlemen in this Convention, but I do appeal to their sense of justice; and if that appeal is vain, I will then appeal to considerations of policy for themselves, and show that their self-interest requires that they should do justice to us.

I must say, that these sneers and this scoffing at our just demands, are a melancholy illustration of the spirit which characterizes a great portion of this body.

Every just republican government recognises perfect equality among its own citizens, and just so far as it denies this equality in any respect, just so far does it violate the principles of justice and equal right. We have heard much eulogy upon our pilgrim fathers and from quarters where their doctrines ought to be better understood. I will undertake to prove to the satisfaction of my friend from St. Mary's, (Mr. Blakistone,) that the very first chapter to be found in Bacon's laws of Maryland, organized the General Assembly upon the *broad basis* that every freeman could come in to the House of Burgesses and be there entitled to equal influence and power. This is the true republican doctrine planted by our pilgrim sires at the old Fort of St. Mary's, and it is to that original doctrine that I call on the sons of those sires to *revert*.

That great principle of equality was subsequently violated by the creation of new counties and the accidental increase from natural causes of population in the western counties, in a much greater ratio than in the old tide water counties.

What is the adversary proposition which I am here to oppose?

That a man residing in Caroline county is to stand equal in political power and influence to any other man in the State, but if he crosses the imaginary lines between his county and the city of Baltimore, he is to dwindle to the twentieth part of a man and become a pigmy. In other words, that the political stature of a man is to be measured by the Constitution, high or low, as he may reside in town or county. If he changes his residence from city to country, or from county to city he is to be a political chameleon, only he is not to change his color according to the surface on which he rests, but to change his size and dimensions which are increased or diminished accordingly as he goes in or out of the city.

I rejected the proposition submitted by Mr. FIERY, of Washington county, because it is but "a crumb from the rich man's table," but I assailed no man's motives who advocated that proposition.

I regarded it as *nothing* to Baltimore city for practical good, save to gratify the ambition of four or five more young men by sending them to the Legislature.